

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (~~strike through~~ or ~~[[double-brackets]]~~ indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1. (currently amended) A scent-elimination system for a hunter, comprising:
a hunting blind in which the hunter may be concealed, the hunting blind having an air outlet opening and having a left side panel, a right side panel, and a bottom panel therebetween, wherein the side and bottom panels are adapted to secure tightly against a tree with a good seal so that airflow between the blind and the tree is minimized and scent-laden air pools at the bottom panel; and
a filtration unit adapted to draw the pooled scent-laden air ~~ambient air into the blind,~~
~~across the hunter to absorb human odors into the air, and through the filtration unit to~~
absorb ~~the human odors~~ thereinto, and to ~~direct vent~~ the filtered air out to the environment.
2. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the ~~blind has an air outlet opening formed therein that receives~~ therein at least a portion of the filtration unit.
3. (currently amended) The system of Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the ~~blind has at least one upper air inlet opening and the air outlet opening is defined at a lower portion of the blind, wherein the~~ filtration unit vents the filtered air is drawn into the blind through the upper air inlet opening and downward towards from within the blind through the lower air outlet opening.
4. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the filtration unit comprises a scent-elimination element.
5. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the filtration unit comprises an air mover.

6. (original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a blind support adapted for mounting to a tree.
7. (original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the blind support includes a tree-mounting bracket and a frame that mounts to the bracket.
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the bracket connector members are outwardly angled and the support frame connector members are inwardly angled for alignment with the outwardly angled bracket connector members.
11. (previously amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the hunting blind is made of a scent-absorbing material.
12. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the hunting blind further comprises a right side panel, a left side panel, a front end panel between the left and right side panels and opposite the tree, and a bottom panel, wherein the top and back of the hunting blind is are open.
13. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the hunting blind comprises a plurality of panels that are sectionalized and detachably coupled together so that the hunter may selectively detach at least two of the panels to permit the hunter to enter and exit the blind, and to permit coupling the panels together around ladders of tree stands for forming a good seal wherein airflow between the blind and the ladder is minimized.

14. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~the hunting blind comprises a left side panel, a right side panel, and a bottom panel therebetween,~~ the left and right side panels having tree-wrapping portions that extend beyond the bottom panel, wherein the left and right side panel tree-wrapping portions may be wrapped at least partially around a tree to form athe good seal.

15. (currently amended) The system of Claim ~~14~~1, wherein the bottom panel has an elastic edge for stretching into a conforming engagement with the tree to form ~~a~~the good seal.

16. (original) The system of Claim 14, wherein the left and right side panel tree-wrapping portions include at least one pair of straps sufficiently long that they may be wrapped around the tree in a crossed fashion and bound together inside the blind to secure the tree-wrapping portions tightly against the tree with the good seal.

17. (currently amended) A scent-elimination system for a hunter, comprising:
a hunting blind in which the hunter may be concealed; and
a filtration unit adapted to draw ambient air into the blind, across the hunter to absorb human odors into the air, and through the filtration unit to absorb the human odors thereinto, and to direct the filtered air out to the environment~~The system of Claim 1,~~
wherein the blind comprises a bottom panel and, ~~the~~ an air outlet opening is defined in the bottom panel, and the filtration unit is adapted for ~~exhausting-venting~~ the filtered air through the bottom air outlet opening.

18. (original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a remote on/off control switch electrically connectable to the filtration unit for operating the filtration unit.

19. (currently amended) A hunting blind for use in a scent-elimination system for a hunter, comprising:

a left side panel, a right side panel, and a bottom panel therebetween, the bottom, left, and right side panels adapted to having tree-wrapping portions that extend beyond the bottom panel, wherein the left and right side panel tree-wrapping portions may be wrapped at least partially around secure tightly against a tree to form with a good seal so that airflow between the blind and the tree is minimized and scent-laden air pools at the bottom panel.

20. (currently amended) The blind of Claim 19, wherein the bottom panel has an elastic edge for stretching into a conforming engagement with the tree to form a the good seal.

21. (currently amended) The blind of Claim ~~19~~41, wherein the left and right side panel tree-wrapping portions include at least one pair of straps sufficiently long that they may be wrapped around the tree in a crossed fashion and bound together inside the blind to secure the tree-wrapping portions tightly against the tree with the good seal.

22. (original) The blind of Claim 19, wherein the hunting blind comprises a plurality of panels that are sectionalized and detachably coupled together so that the hunter may selectively detach at least two of the panels to permit the hunter to enter and exit the blind, and to permit coupling the panels together around ladders of tree stands for forming a good seal.

23. (currently amended) The blind of Claim 19, wherein the blind has an air outlet opening formed therein through which the filtration unit ~~exhausts~~ vents filtered air from within the blind through.

24. (currently amended) The blind of Claim ~~19~~ 23, wherein the blind ~~has at least one upper air inlet opening and the air outlet opening is defined at a lower portion of the blind, wherein the air is drawn into the blind through the upper air inlet opening and downward towards the lower air outlet opening.~~

25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A blind support for a hunting blind for a hunter, the hunting blind having a lower air outlet opening and having two sides and a bottom that are adapted to secure tightly against a tree with a good seal so that scent-laden air pools at the bottom for filtration before venting through the lower air outlet opening, the blind support unit comprising:

a tree-mounting bracket adapted for mounting to a tree; and

a horizontal frame adapted for mounting to the bracket and supporting the blind with the blind sides and bottom secured to the tree with the good seal, wherein the blind support frame includes a horizontal end member and two horizontal side members pivotally coupled to the end member, wherein the pivotal side members can be unfolded for use so that the horizontal frame is generally U-shaped, and the pivotal side members can be folded and collapsed into a compact arrangement for storage and transportation.

27. (previously amended) The blind support of Claim 26, wherein the tree-mounting bracket includes two connector members and the support frame includes two connector members that removably mount to the bracket connector members so that the bracket and frame can be coupled together for use and disassembled for when not in use.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously amended) The blind support of Claim 26, wherein the bracket comprises a lateral member, two connector members at opposing ends of the lateral member, two tree-mounting members extending vertically from the lateral member, and a tree-circumscribing strap coupled to the tree-mounting members, wherein the connector members removably couple to the frame so that the bracket and frame can be coupled together for use and disassembled for when not in use.

30. (currently amended) A filtration unit for use with a hunting blind for a hunter, the hunting blind having a lower air outlet opening and having two sides and a bottom that are adapted to secure tightly against a tree with a good seal so that scent-laden air pools at the bottom for filtration before venting through the lower air outlet opening, the filtration unit comprising:

a scent-elimination element adapted for absorbing human scents from the hunter;
an air mover adapted for drawing the pooled scent-laden~~carrying~~ air across the scent-elimination element and ~~exhausting-venting~~ the now unscented air from within the hunting blind; and

a portable power source for the air mover,
wherein the filtration unit is adapted for directing the now unscented air through an the lower air outlet opening in the hunting blind and out to a hunting environment.

31. (previously amended) The filtration unit of Claim 30, further comprising a remote on/off control switch electrically connectable to the filtration unit and the portable power source for operating the filtration unit from within the blind when installed in the hunting environment.

32. (original) The filtration unit of Claim 30, wherein the scent-elimination element comprises an activated carbon material.

33. (previously amended) A method of eliminating a hunter's scent from a hunting area, comprising:

providing a blind defining a closed space except for at least one air inlet opening and an air outlet opening;

providing a filtration unit for scent elimination;

drawing ambient air into the blind through the air inlet and around the hunter to absorb human odors into the air;

drawing the scent-laden air into the filtration unit for scent elimination; and

directing the cleaned air through the air outlet opening, out of the blind, and into the hunting area.

34. (original) The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of mounting the blind to a tree with a good seal.

35. (original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the step of mounting the blind to a tree with a good seal comprises wrapping two extended side panel portions at least partially around the tree.

36. (original) The method of Claim 35, wherein the step of mounting the blind to a tree with a good seal further comprises stretching an elastic edge of a bottom panel of the blind into a conforming engagement with the tree.

37. (original) The method of Claim 35, wherein the step of mounting the blind to a tree with a good seal further comprises wrapping at least one pair of straps, which are attached to the two extended side panel portions, around the tree in a crossed fashion and binding them together inside the blind to secure the two extended side panel portions tightly against the tree.

38. (previously added) The filtration unit of Claim 30, wherein the filtration unit has a first portion that is adapted for extending through the air outlet opening in the hunting blind and a second portion that overhangs and is supported by the hunting blind.

39. (previously added) The filtration unit of Claim 38, wherein the first portion includes at least a portion of the air mover and the second portion includes at least a portion of the scent-elimination element.

40. (previously added) The method of Claim 33, wherein the air inlet opening is defined in an upper portion of the blind and the air outlet is defined in a lower portion of the blind, wherein the step of drawing ambient air comprises drawing ambient air into the blind through the upper air inlet and downwardly around the hunter to absorb human odors into the air.

41. (new) The blind of Claim 19, wherein the left and right side panels have tree-wrapping portions that extend beyond the bottom panel, wherein the left and right side panel tree-wrapping portions may be wrapped at least partially around the tree to form the good seal.

42. (new) The blind of Claim 20, wherein the left and right side panels have tree-wrapping portions that extend beyond the bottom panel, wherein the left and right side panel tree-wrapping portions may be wrapped at least partially around the tree to form the good seal.